

STATUS OF THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-33 were originally filed in this patent application. In response to the first office action dated 7/25/03, an amendment was filed on 10/25/03 that canceled claims 9-10, 12, 25-26, and 29 and amended claims 1, 13, 17, 28 and 30. In the pending office action, claims 11 and 28 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0086659 to Lauper. Claims 1-2, 6, 17-18, 22 and 30-33 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Lauper in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,389,288 to Kuwahara *et al.* (hereinafter "Kuwahara"). Claims 3-5, 7-8, 19-21 and 23-24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable Lauper and Kuwahara and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,479,476 to Finke-Anlauff. Claims 13-16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,539,223 to Bijanki *et al.* (hereinafter "Bijanki"). Claims 13-15 and 30-32 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,924,041 to Alperovich (hereinafter "Alperovich A") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,233,448 (hereinafter "Alperovich B"). Claim 27 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kuwahara and Alperovich B and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,424,840 to Fitch *et al.* (hereinafter "Fitch"). No claim was allowed. Claims 1-8, 11, 13-24, 27-28, and 30-33 are currently pending.